

To: Department of Justice

Reference: Tunney Act Comments --Microsoft Settlement

January 8, 2002

With respect to the Microsoft antitrust settlement, I believe that the idea that the consumer has suffered is a false premise. I consider myself a consumer having used a computer at work and at home. I purchased my first IBM computer at home and used the IBM computers at work. My initial computer had two floppies drives with limited data storage, no memory manager, no graphics, no modem and poor software uniformity.

I used several software programs at work such as MultiMate, Display Writer, Word Perfect and Lotus 1 2 3. Each of our company plants had their own favorite software and communication and exchange of data and reports were difficult.

Our company was purchased by a foreign company and the new owner had a policy of using Microsoft software programs within the company. The hodgepodge of software programs and poor communications ended.

Standardization made our company more efficient and more profitable. For this improvement the DOJ must punish Microsoft for making our company successful.

I have retired and I find that my pension plan is under attack by the DOJ and several states seeking additional punishment of Microsoft. The decline of the value of Microsoft stock and the computer related industries can be traced to the DOJ finding that Microsoft is a monopoly. To this date my pension plan has not recovered because of the continuing legal cloud over Microsoft and the threat of the government controls over the computer industry.


In the meantime there are many monopolies in the United States that are more harmful to consumers when compared to Microsoft.

The postal service, ground transportation at airports, teacher unions and civil servant are harmful to consumers because of poor service and costs. These monopolies do not promote efficiency, reduce costs or compete globally.

Microsoft made standardization efficient, profitable and created the Internet.

I read in the paper that the DOJ cost for pursuing the Microsoft litigation is over 30 million dollars. I have no idea how much money was used by the states. All the dollars used were from taxpayers. Are not the taxpayers in the real world consumers?

Please reach a settlement that will allow our computer industries do their work without interference from Silicon Valley lobbyists, Congress and ambitious state politicians for the good of our nation.


Joseph J. Piasecki
305 Pleasant Valley Drive
Leola, PA 17540